

Appln. No. 10/053,631
Amendment dated August 30, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 18, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The June 18, 2004 Office Action and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, claims are cancelled, amended and added, and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to place the present application in form for allowance. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

In the Office Action claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over GB 2150728 A (Martens) in view USP 5,845,263 (Camaisa et al.). Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Martens and Camaisa et al., and further in view of USP 6,145,628 (Tanaka).

In response, claims 1 and 4 are cancelled and limitations from claim 1 are incorporated into claim 3. The dependency of claim 2 is changed from "1" to --3-- and new claim 5 is added. No new matter is added.

Claim 3 is directed to a food and drink ordering system including carrying means for carrying food and drinks from the

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food and drink supplying place to the customer's table. The control unit includes an image control function enabling an image displayed on the image display means to change in accordance with developments of the ordered food and drinks being delivered to the designated customer's table via the carrying means, so as to provide the customer with information on the status of the arrival of the ordered food and drinks to the customer's table. The Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to paragraphs 0041-0048 and Figs. 6(a)-6(d) of the present application to aid in the Examiner's understanding of what Applicant claims in claim 3.

In rejecting claims 3 and 4, the Examiner acknowledges that Martens and Camaisa et al. do not teach the carrying means wherein the control unit includes an image control function of allowing an image displayed on the image display means to change one after another in accordance with developments of the ordered food and drink carried up to the designated customer's table via the carrying means. In order to bridge the gap between the invention defined by claims 3 and 4 and Martens in combination with Camaisa et al., the Examiner cites Tanaka as teaching food and drink carrying means. The Examiner states that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Tanaka's food and drink conveying

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system with Camaisa et al.'s interactive visual ordering system and with Martens' client-actuated display and ordering system to arrive at the present claimed invention.

It is respectfully pointed out to the Examiner that Tanaka is assigned to the same Assignee as the present application. The Tanaka reference does not disclose, teach or suggest the specific limitations recited in claim 3.

Tanaka teaches a food and drink conveying system which enables a food or drink ordered, served to and conveyed through a conveying path to be received by the orderer, without any fear of the ordered food or drink being taken out of the conveying system by another person, and to provide notice to the orderer of the arrival of his order contained in the conveying container at a place near the orderer's table (see col. 1, line 35 - col. 2, line 10 of Tanaka). That is, Tanaka only alerts the customer of the arrival of the food and drink order and does not provide the customer with information on the status of the arrival of the ordered food and drink to the customer's table.

Tanaka does not disclose, teach or suggest a customer viewing food and drink information on an image display means wherein the control unit includes an image control function of allowing an image displayed on the image display means to change in accordance with developments of the ordered food and drink

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being conveyed to the customer's table via the carrying means, so as to provide the customer with information on the status of the arrival of the ordered food and drinks to the customer's table (see claim 3, lines 30-37). That is, Tanaka et al. provide no indication as to the status of the order. Tanaka only advises when the order has arrived at the customer's table.

None of the other references of record close the gap between the present claimed invention as defined by claim 3 and Tanaka in combination with Martens and Camaisa et al. Therefore, claim 3 is patentable over the references of record under 35 USC 102 as well as 35 USC 103.

Claim 2 is now dependent upon claim 3 and is patentable over the cited references in view of its dependence on claim 3 and because the references do not disclose, teach or suggest each of the limitations set forth in claim 2.

New claim 5 recites a select mechanism for selectively delivering the ordered food and drink to the customer's table in response to the control unit. Support for the limitations set forth in claim 5 can be found in the present application as originally filed (see paragraphs 0014, 0016 and 0045, inter alia). The references of record do not disclose, teach or suggest a select mechanism as recited in claim 5, nor would it have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time

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the invention was made to modify the cited references to arrive at the invention defined by new claim 5.

Claim 5 is patentable over the prior art of record in view of its dependence on claim 3, and because the references do not disclose, teach or suggest each of the limitations set forth in claim 5.

In view of the foregoing, claims 2, 3 and 5 are in form for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

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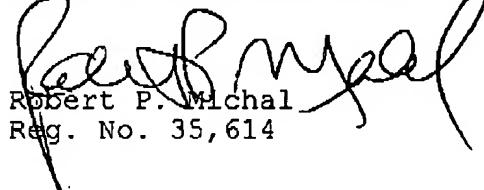
Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where there is support for a contrary view.

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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


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